

City of Scottsdale

2012

State Legislative Agenda



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MISSION

The mission of the City of Scottsdale is to cultivate citizen trust by fostering and practicing open, accountable, and responsive government; providing quality core services; promoting long-term prosperity; planning and managing growth in harmony with the city's unique heritage and desert surroundings; strengthening the city's standing as a preeminent destination for tourism; and promoting livability by enhancing and protecting neighborhoods. Quality of life shall be the city's paramount consideration.

CORE PRINCIPLES

Protect Scottsdale's Quality of Life

Protect those attributes that make Scottsdale unique and desirable. These may include: safe neighborhoods; a Sonoran Desert lifestyle; arts and culture; land preservation and open space; a vibrant and diverse economy; efficient transportation; and high standards of aesthetics, public amenities and levels of service.

Preserve Local Funding

Protect existing funding and authorities that bring revenues to the City of Scottsdale which support the quality of life for its residents. Such areas might include the protection of state-shared revenues, the ability to collect compensation for the use of a public right-of-way, or opposition to the imposition of new fees by other levels of governments that would increase costs to the City.

State Shared Revenues – Arizona voters chose, through a series of initiatives, to return a portion of tax revenues back to local communities through revenue sharing. This was provided to municipalities in exchange for losses in local taxing authority such as income and luxury taxes. The City Council adopted FY 11/12 General Fund revenues include \$42.1M in state-shared revenues (\$16.4M Sales Tax, \$18.3M Income Tax, and \$7.3M Auto Lieu Tax) or 18% of General Fund Revenues and Cash Transfers In. Those state-shared revenues fund 19% of the City's General Fund Operating Budget of approximately \$217.4M.

Oppose Preemption of Local Authority

Support the retention of local decision-making authority. Scottsdale was voluntarily created by the residents of this community to provide local self-government and to allow the Scottsdale City Council to make decisions at a local level that best meet the needs of the community. Scottsdale has unique needs and characteristics that are best met

by policies set by its own local governing body. Unfunded mandates and preemptive efforts to remove the ability to set policy at the local level should be opposed.

POLICY STATEMENTS

ECONOMIC VITALITY

Economic Vitality – A strong and vibrant economy is essential to the quality of life for the City's residents, businesses, and visitors. Economic Vitality is one of the primary goals of City of Scottsdale.

- ***SUPPORT working with the State, other governments, and private enterprises to identify future economic growth opportunities.***
- ***OPPOSE legislation that would diminish the ability of local governments to provide supportive services to local businesses or revitalize areas within city boundaries.***
- ***OPPOSE efforts that would create additional regulatory or administrative hurdles to the local economic engine.***

HURF Restoration – The Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) is comprised of motor fuel taxes and other fees. It is designated for highway construction and transportation infrastructure improvements at the State and local level. The City of Scottsdale uses its HURF allocation for street maintenance and planning of future transportation infrastructure projects.

In FY 11/12, \$37.8 million of HURF revenues, that would have otherwise gone to cities and towns, was diverted to the Department of Public Safety and the Motor Vehicle Division. The impact to the City from the loss of these HURF revenues was \$1.5 million. In FY08, the DPS received 4% of its funding from HURF revenues. In FY12, the DPS will receive 57% of its funding from HURF revenues.

- ***SUPPORT the discontinuance of HURF monies being used to fund the operations of the Arizona Motor Vehicle Division (MVD).***
- ***SUPPORT the phasing-down of the percentage of HURF revenues being used to fund the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) to the statutory level of \$10 million annually.***

Tourism – Tourism encompasses transportation, catering, accommodations, recreation, and other services for travelers. In 2010, it had an estimated \$2.6 billion annual impact to the City of Scottsdale and an estimated \$17.7 billion impact to the State of Arizona. It is one of the State's largest industries and creators of jobs.

- ***SUPPORT efforts to increase the visibility of Arizona, Scottsdale and other Arizona cities and towns as being tourism destinations.***

NEIGHBORHOODS

Signwalkers – In 2008, HB 2066 mandated that cities and towns *must* allow signwalking activities, but gave local governments the explicit authority to place reasonable restrictions on the *time, place, and manner* in which signwalking activities can occur.

- ***OPPOSE legislation that would negatively alter or remove a local government's ability to manage commercial signwalking activities for reasonable time, place, or manner.***

Fireworks – In 2010, HB 2246 legalized the *sale* of consumer fireworks throughout Arizona. While the *sale* of consumer fireworks is now mandated, the bill provided the authority for a city or town to ban the *use* of consumer fireworks within its boundaries.

- ***OPPOSE efforts to preempt the local control of the use of fireworks.***

Fire Code – The primary purpose of a fire code is the prevention of fires, ensuring that necessary training and equipment will be on hand, and that the original design basis of a home or building does not compromise the safety of its occupants.

- ***OPPOSE legislation that negatively impacts the City's Fire Code or its ability to enforce its Fire Code provisions.***

PRESERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

State Land Reform – The Arizona Enabling Act granted Arizona 10.9 million acres of land to be held in trust for the benefit of named beneficiaries, primarily the public schools. The Arizona State Land Department manages the remaining 9.2 million acres of State Trust Land. The Enabling Act and the Arizona Constitution largely dictate how Trust lands are managed, leased, or sold. Currently, there are no Constitutional provisions that recognize the importance of conservation in determining the highest and best use of certain Trust lands.

- ***SUPPORT legislation that makes positive changes to State Land policies allowing cities and towns the ability to preserve land for open space.***

Salinity – Water is a scarce resource in the arid Southwest and the availability of good quality water resources is approaching full utilization in many Arizona communities. Rising levels of salinity in Arizona's water systems, if left unchecked, will lead to increased treatment costs and possible shortages of usable water. Salinity is the total amount of minerals (also known as salts) that are dissolved in water. Salts can be made of sodium chloride (regular table salt) or other minerals such as potassium, calcium or magnesium.

- ***SUPPORT efforts to mitigate salinity accumulation, including collaborative measures to minimize or eliminate sodium chloride from water softeners.***

Forest Restoration – There are millions of acres of diseased, dying, and overgrown forests that have created a widespread forest health problem. The poor condition of these forests has dramatically increased the effects of insect infestation, understory overgrowth, and unnatural fire conditions. The forest health problem is widespread and is affecting wildlife habitat, watershed management, and increasing the dangers to human life and property.

- ***SUPPORT legislative efforts to bring about changes in forest management with the goal of enacting effective and large-scale forest restoration efforts for Arizona and other western forests to improve forest health, increase water yield, and reduce the risks from catastrophic wildfires.***

PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Managed Competition – In 2011, SB 1322 would have required cities with a population greater than 500,000 to go through an open and competitive bidding process for all city services with a cost exceeding \$500,000. This one-size-fits-all approach to the privatization of city services does not take into account a city's institutional experience with privatization and knowledge of where efficiencies can be gained. A city or town already has the ability to bid out municipal services and will likely have done so if and when it makes sense to do so.

- ***OPPOSE legislation that would mandate a process of competitive bidding for city services that is inconsistent with the City of Scottsdale's current managed competition practices.***

Department of Water Resources Funding – In 2011, a provision was added to the State's budget bill, which allowed the Arizona Department of Water Resources (DWR) to assess and collect up to \$7 million in fees from each municipality in the State. In total, the DWR assessed and collected \$6.25 million dollars from Arizona cities and towns to fund the functions of the Arizona Department of Water Resources. The resulting \$270,822 impact to the City of Scottsdale from this assessment was not anticipated prior to the formation of the FY 11/12 City budget. The assessment of this fee is not reflective of the services that are provided to *all* Arizona water users and that are being paid by cities and towns.

- ***SUPPORT legislation to repeal of the assessment of municipal fees to fund the functions of the Arizona Department of Water Resources.***
- ***SUPPORT working with the State to find an alternative, fair, and equitable means of supporting the functions of the Department of Water Resources.***

Water Service – PROTECT and enhance the City's ability to provide safe, sustainable, and reliable water and wastewater services to the citizens of Scottsdale at a reasonable cost. Examples of legislation that may fall under this statement include:

- Legislation to ensure the City's role in the management and continued use of reclaimed water and surface water.
- Legislation to increase supplies of water through efficiency improvements or natural resource management.
- Legislation to maintain municipal access to supplies of Central Arizona Project delivered water.

Public Pension Reform – The Arizona Constitution establishes the State’s public retirement systems. These systems today include the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS), the Public Safety Retirement System (PSPRS), the Elected Officials Retirement Plan (EORP) and the Corrections Officers Retirement Plan (CORP). In establishing the public retirement systems, the Constitution also prohibits diminishing or impairing the contractual relationship between a public retirement system member (or beneficiary) and the retirement provider.

- ***SUPPORT legislation to repeal provisions in the Arizona Constitution that establish a public retirement system and prohibit diminishing or impairing the contractual relationship between a public retirement system member and the retirement provider.***

Approved by the Scottsdale City Council on December 6, 2011